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# Message Text

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43
ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 IO-12 AID-20 RSR-01 /137 W
---------- 109669
R 041902 Z MAY 73
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9830
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
USMISSION USUN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 12310

E. O. GDS
TAGS: PFOR, XF, LE, US
SUBJECT: LEBANESE AMBASSADOR' S VIEWS ON MIDDLE EAST SITUATION

DEPT PASS USINT CAIRO

1. LEBANESE AMBASSADOR HARFOUCHE DURING MY INITIAL CALL ON HIM GAVE ME HIS PERSONAL VIEWS ON CURRENT US POLICY IN MIDDLE EAST. SPEAKING FROM PERSPECTIVE OF MANY YEARS OF INVOLVEMENT WITH PROBLEMS OF AREA, INCLUDING PERIOD AS SECRETARY GENERAL OF LEBANESE FOREIGN MINISTRY, HARFOUCHE EXPRESSED GREAT REGRET AT WAY IN WHICH US RELATIONS WITH ARAB WORLD DEVELOPING. IN HIS VIEW, WHILE US SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL WAS UNDERSTANDABLE, IT WAS EXCESSIVE AND WAS ALIENATING EVEN AMERICA' S BEST FRIENDS IN THE AREA. HARFOUCHE STRESSED IMPORTANCE WHICH LEBANON ATTACHED TO ITS FRIENDSHIP WITH UNITED STATES. HE RECOGNIZED THAT IN THE PAST WE WERE ONLY COUNTRY WHICH HAD TAKEN ANY ACTION TO GET ISRAEL OUT OF LEBANESE TERRITORY. NONETHELESS, HE FELT FUNDAMENTALLY US DID NOT FULLY APPRECIATE DEPTH OF DAMAGE TO ITS POSITION IN ARAB WORLD ARISING FROM ITS SUPPORT TO ISRAEL. LEBANON ATTACHED PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE TO ITS RELATIONS WITH FRANCE BECAUSE IT WAS ONLY COUNTRY WHICH GAVE IT UNEQUIVOCAL SUPPORT.
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WM HARFOUCHE OFFERED NO PANACEA FOR RESOLUTION OF MIDDLE EAST SITUATION. HE SAID IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO ENVISAGE OVER CENTURIES CREATION OF NEW CIVILIZATION IN AREA FROM AMALGAM OF ISRAELI AND ARAB CULTURES, MUCH AS GALLO- ROMAN CIVILIZATION HAD DEVELOPED IN FRANCE. IMMEDIATE PROBLEM, HOWEVER, IS TO FIND WAY IN WHICH PALESTINIANS CAN HAVE HOMELAND OF THEIR OWN. LEBANON WAS IN PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT POSITION. CLASHES BETWEEN GUERRILLAS AND ARMY, WHICH WERE GOING ON AS WE SPOKE, WERE EVIDENCE OF THIS. HE HOPED WE WOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT OUR INTERESTS IN THE ARAB WORLD AS WE LOOKED TO FUTURE, BUT DID NOT FEEL THAT WE COULD USEFULLY TAKE ANY ACTION IN CONTEXT CURRENT LEBANESE CRISIS. OUR ACTIONS AND MOTIVES WOULD BE MISCONSTRUED, HE SAID.

3. I ASSURED HIM WE WERE WELL AWARE OF COMPLEXITY OF PROBLEM AND THAT WHILE WE HAD CLOSE RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL, WE ALSO DESIRED GOOD RELATIONS WITH ARAB WORLD. OUR BASIC CONVICTION WAS THAT UNLESS TWO SIDES BEGAN TO DISCUSS THEIR DIFFERENCES WITHOUT PRECONDITIONS THERE WOULD BE NO POSSIBILITY OF A SOLUTION. IT WAS IN THIS SENSE THAT OUR ACTIONS HAD BEEN BASED. WE HAD BEEN WILLING TO CONDEMN ISRAELI ATTACKS ON LEBANON IN SECURITY COUNCIL, BUT HAD FELT THAT TERRORIST ACTIVITIES MUSH EQUALLY BE CONDEMNED. I EXPRESSED GRATIFICATION AT DEGREE OF COOPERATION WHICH HAD BEEN ACHIEVED BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS DURING SC DEBATE AND OUR HOPE FOR CONTINUED COOPERATION IN FUTURE.
IRWIN

NOTE BY OC/ T: NOT PASSED CAIRO.

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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**Subject:** LEBANESE AMBASSADOR' S VIEWS ON MIDDLE EAST SITUATION DEPT PASS USINT CAIRO
**TAGS:** PFOR, LE, US, XF
**To:** AMMAN
BEIRUT
NEA
SECSTATE WASHDC
TEL AVIV
USUN

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